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THE LESSON IN KENTUCKY.

The Opposition have now been defeated in Kentucky, as they were in Virginia. They fought their battle with much energy and much talent. Their men were able in the arts of electioneering—if anything, abler than their Democratic opponents. The issue was squarely and boldly made. As in Virginia, they contended that the Democratic party was unsound on the Slavery question; that in fact it was tainted with the virus of Freedom; and that it was only in the Opposition camp that the best of institutions could find protection and security. They alone loudly declared themselves in favor of that great desideratum, a Federal slave code insuring to property in slaves the same legal monuments as surround other property in the Territories. This was their grand idea. To the length of reopening the slave-trade they did not go—a prudent abstinence, since Kentucky can make more money by breeding than by importing negroes. But on the question of a Federal slave code they rung all possible changes, chiefly with charges of abolition tendencies against the Democratic leaders. Thus these former Whigs and Americans, many of whom had, no doubt, before followed HENRY CLAY when he contended for the extension of Slavery in the State sought to get into power by a degree of super-serviceable servility to the negro interest which the Democratic party did not think it necessary to imitate. Their tactics in this respect would seem to have been borrowed from the South of this State, all zealous Free-Soilers a few years since, but now ready to engage in any base service which their more manly and consistent rivals, the Hards, would never stoop to.

We rejoice that this disgusting prostration of the Kentucky Opposition has met with its fit reward. After making itself contemptible, the election has made it ridiculous. This result vindicates not only the law of political justice, but the good sense of the people of Kentucky. They are not so simple as not to know that Slavery is safe with a party that has stood by it, fought its hardest fights, broken down the Missouri Compromise, made the Broken Scott decision, engaged in the fraud and bloodshed of Kansas, and sacrificed itself in all the Northern States in obedience to the dictates of the slave power. Besides, the Kentuckians under stood perfectly that the triumph of such an opposition must be a barren victory. Suppose its candidates had all been elected, what then? How could they have procured the promised Federal slave code? Why, only by going in with the Democrats, from the Republicans, or even from moderate Southerners, nothing of that sort could be hoped for. Of course, then, sensible men would take the shorter cut of voting for Democrats in the first instance. And so this Opposition, without reason, without policy and without object, except official spoils, has come to a not untimely end.

In a Slave State there are two modes of opposing the Democratic party, which may be comprehended. The first is that adopted in Missouri, where, assailing the false pretensions, the extravagance, favoritism and corruption of that party, the Opposition have also adopted the time-honored opinion of the Fathers, that Slavery is an evil and a curse, morally and economically. Accordingly, they propose to clear the State of it, and to put Free-Labor in its place. This is a genuine Opposition, full of benefits to the State, which it is even now daily building up to a prosperity and a power that the stupidity and stagnation of Slavery could never even conceive. The other kind of intelligible Opposition is that which we have now seen in Tennessee, where, laying aside the question of Slavery, the matters of local policy have been brought forward, and the need of a more honest, economical, and truly Democratic administration of the Government forcibly insisted on. This, though far less comprehensive, less vital, and in its ultimate fruits less beneficial than the policy of Missouri, is yet not without respectability and usefulness. Nor does it entirely cut off the possibility of a patriotic cooperation on national questions between the men of Tennessee and the men of Missouri and the great party of which the latter form a part.

But while the Democrats of Kentucky have thus crushed the spurious party that had come against them with such loud and hollow pretensions, the germs of a complete and permanent Opposition are not wanting in that State. We refer, of course, to the body of professed Emancipationists and Republicans who are found there. Apparently few in number and weak in influence, with only a single leader, the fearless CASSIUS M. CLAY, they yet hold to the principles and represent the policy on whose future triumph the greatness of the State and the happiness and progress of her people are inseparably dependent.

A WAY OF PREVENTING RAILWAY MURDERS.

The Railway monster has demanded and received another oblation of human sacrifices. Is its insatiable maw never to be glutted, or can no way be invented to get a hook into its nostrils? Fire is a good servant and a bad master, as the proverbial wisdom tells us. And so is Water. And not less Steam, the offspring of the union of these two mighty parents. Like the vapor which the fisherman in the Arabian tale let loose from the casket in which it had been sealed up with the signet of Solomon, it can work miracles of blessing and mischief, according as it is under wise guidance or left to its own terrible devices. Still, as this mighty power is the slave of our lamp which we have called into existence, and all the conditions of whose being we might know and ought to know, it is our own fault if it deviate the breadth of a hair from the path and the work we appoint to it. It cannot break its chains and brain us with them, excepting by our own guilty negligence. And its fierce fury, devastating as it is, when it has mastered us, is not so full of wounds and death as the guilty avarice which refuses to furnish it with the implements proper to its work. An explosion of a steam boiler like that of the steamer on the St. Lawrence two years since, or of the locomotive at Alliance, in Ohio, is a rare and innocent casualty compared to the murders at Norwalk, on the Michigan Southern Railway, and on Tuesday last at Schaghticoke, through the crime of the builders and managers of the road.

That terrible railway massacre which we have had to record compels these reflections on the unwilling minds of our traveling public, to be forgotten almost before the last victim is laid in his grave. The agony, the terror, the ghastly sights and sounds which made that night hideous, might well give pause to a less rapid generation than that to which we belong. But it will do no such thing. We look over the returns of the dead, wounded, and missing, as we fly along the glowing rails ourselves, and as we are ready to curse any slackness of our speed as if no such warning had been given us. Of course, nobody will be found to blame for it. Some engineer, or flagman, or gatekeeper, is sometimes offered up as a sacrifice to vengeance; but justice never reaches the parties on whose heads

the blood of the innocent justly rests. The culverts were insufficient in one case, the bridge was not strong enough in the other—as if it were the fault of the culverts or the bridges! They did not make themselves. The blood that cries for vengeance from the ground invokes it upon those in whose hands those innocent men and women had placed themselves in full confidence of safety. Almost every railway in the land has now had its baptism in blood. And all that a few racial counters, more or less, might be saved or made by those who had taken all that warm life into their hands and pledged themselves to its safety. But these atrocities have grown so common that they scarcely excite the horror that should attend them. A new one drives away the memory of those which went before it, and in a little time none but the mourners remember that such things were.

But though the Railway Companies, their directors and servants, should be held strictly accountable at the bar of public opinion, if not of public justice, for accidents which arise from imperfect construction or careless handling, the whole blame of these wholesale butcheries should not be placed at their door only. It is partly the fever of haste which burns in the veins of the public, and demands facilities of travel, and demands it cheap, from which they come. In the fierce competition which grows out of this state of mind, dangers are winked out of sight, and carelessness in the making of culverts, bridges, and the roadway itself, are passed over, in the hope that good luck will be our friend. It is partly the fault of the sovereign power which calls these corporations into existence, in whose hands are these issues of life and death, that death is so often the issue as it is. A more careful foresight when such corporations are formed to see that they are properly managed in the beginning, and a stricter oversight over them, and especially as to all weak and dangerous points of their work, when in operation, might hinder a multitude of these railway slaughters. And, antecedent to legislation and superior to it, the public opinion of the traveling public should demand such securities and submit to such conditions as will make safety as near a certainty as it can be in human things. But no longer as the first, the second, and the third value of a railway, in the eyes of those that use it, this crowning merit must be furnished at whatever risk. There is no fever so contagious as that of haste, and none that spreads so quickly from the passenger to the